(c) There are two drug of choice for treatment of Kalazar. Sodium Stubo Gluconate the first drug of choice is produced indigenously and is available in open market freely. This drug is also procured by the State Governments and distributed to various Primary Health Centres and Government Hospitals in effective districts. The second line of treatment which is an imported drug called Pentamidine Isothionate is not available in the market. The Government of India imports this drug and supply to the affected States against their requirement. This drug is mainly used in Bihar in patients who does not respond to first line of treatment with Sodium Stubo-Gluconate.

(d) Specific action Plans have been prepared in consultation with the concerned State Government with the following strategies:-

1. Early case detection and establishment of adequate treatment facilities.

2. Organising effective insecticidal spray for interruption of transmission.

3. Organising health education activities and training of medical and para-medical personnel.

4. Treatment of Kala-azar cases with appropriate drugs.

5. Adequate stocking of anti-Kala-azar drugs.

[*Translation*]

Expansion of Forests Area

2736. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of forest land in the country at present;

(b) the percentage of forests under Central Reserve Forests and the forests under the Control of State Governments;

(c) the steps being taken by the Government for the expansion of forests and to check the continuous felling of trees;

(d) the policy of the Government regarding the rights of tribals on the traditional lands in the forest areas;

(e) whether compensation is given to the tribals for the income generated from their forests; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) According to the 'State of Forest Report 1989 the percentage of forest land in the country is 22.8%.

(b) There is no legal classification as Central Reserve Forest. However, the total recorded forest area under the control of States/UTs is 75.18 million ha.

(c) The following steps are being taken by the Government for expansion of forests and to check felling of trees;

i) Massive afforestation programme has been launched under the 20 Point Programme including Social Forestry Scheme.

ii) Central Government have issued guidelines to the State Governments/Uts.,

to consider banning tree felling in the hills above 1,000 metres, at least for some years.

- to avoid clear felling of natural forests and where such fellings are inevitable for restoration of forest crop or other silvicultural

considerations, it should be restricted to 10 ha. in the hills and 25 ha. in the plains.

(d) to (f). According to the National Forest Policy 1988, the rights and concessions enjoyed by the Tribals and other poor living within and near the forests should be fully protected.

Environment and Forests Improvement Schemes in Rajasthan

2737. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT:
SHRI KUNJEE LAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of envoirment and forests improvement schemes being implemented in Rajasthan;

(b) the amount spent on these schemes during the last three years and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the special scheme of the Union Government to check the expansion of desert and the details of the works completed thereunder?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Amendments to Wildlife Protection Act

2738. PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to amend the Wild Life Protection Act, 1972;

(b) the names of the animals whose hunting has been banned;

(c) whether the Government have received any representation in regard to the damages caused to the crops of farmers due to the ban imposed on the hunting of Neelgai, and

(d) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is a ban on hunting of wild animals included in Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II of the Act.

(c) Complaints are received about damage of crops by Neelgai.

(d) There are following safeguards in the Act to prevent damage by wild animals to standing crops:

i) State Governments have powers to declare any such species, which does not form part of Schedule I and Part II of Schedule II as 'vermin' if it has become dangerous to life and property including crops. As Neelgai forms part of Schedule III, it can be declared as a 'vermin' in areas where it is doing serious damage.

Amount Spent Under Afforestation Programme in Bihar

2739. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the area under forests in Bihar is less in comparison to other States;

(b) the amount spent under afforesta-